Establishment of Instrumented Test Range in Orissa

38. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a letter from Shri Nilmoni Routtroy, a former Chief Minister of Orissa, regarding establishment of Instrumented Test Range at Baliapal in Orissa, describing therein the merits and demerits in establishing the said Range; and

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister proposes to visit the proposed site to apprise himself of the real facts and the feelings of the local people in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime Minister is fully aware of the project requirements and also the feelings and problems of the people to be displaced. The decision has been taken after full appreciation of the problems which would be faced by the displaced population and the steps which are proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them suitably.

Diversion of Central Plan Allocations by Orissa

39. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have allowed the Orissa Government to divert the Central allocations, specifically made and earmarked to be spent on IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and other specific poverty eradication programmes to other programmes like ERRP, etc. if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what action has been taken to stop this diversion of funds;

(b) what is the exact amount diverted from the other programmes originally sanctioned by the Planning Commission to ERRP by the Orissa Government in 1984-85 and 1985-86 and so far in 1986-87; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to scrutinise the fulfilment of targets of poverty eradication programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING ANR MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The Central matching grant for IRDP & NREP programmes is released after verifying actual expenditure. In case of RLEGP, 100 per cent reimbursement is made on the basis of actual expenditure. Extra funds required for higher subsidy to ERRP beneficiaries are met from State's own resources.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) From the current year all plan programmes are to be monitored by the Planning Commission on a quarterly basis with reference to financial and physical targets.

Public resistance to destruction of forests by BALSO

40. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strong resistance put up by the people through peaceful satya graha against the destruction of forests by BALCO in the historic Gandhamardan Hills in Sambalpur district (Orissa) ;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard so as to save the ecology and the tribal culture of this area; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what specific measures Government propose to take to save the environment, ecology and the tribal culture of this area before allowing BALCO to undertake mining operations in the Gndhamardan Hills?